

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Continuation of US SERIAL NO. 08/661,778

Attorney Docket No. Q45980

*Amend*  
*Sub B-7*  
9. A multi-piece solid golf ball having a structure of at least four layers, said ball comprising; a core having a structure consisting of an inner sphere and a layer surrounding the inner sphere and a cover enclosing the core and consisting of inner and outer cover layers, said outer cover layer having a hardness of 40 to 60 degrees on Shore D, said inner cover layer having a hardness of up to 53 degrees on Shore D and lower than that of said outer cover layer, and said inner sphere having a lower hardness than said surrounding layer.

10. The golf ball of claim 9 wherein said inner cover layer is softer than said outer cover layer by a hardness difference of at least 5 degrees on Shore D.

11. The golf ball of claim 9 wherein said outer cover layer has a gage of 0.5 to 3.0 mm, said inner cover layer has a gage of 0.5 to 3.0 mm, and the entire cover has a gage of 1.0 to 5.0 mm.

12. The golf ball of claim 9 wherein said inner sphere has a diameter of 20 to 39 mm and is formed of a rubber base material, said surrounding layer has a hardness of at least 45 degrees on Shore D, and said core has a diameter of 35 to 41 mm.--

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment accompanies the filing of a continuation application to application serial No. 08/661,778. That application was allowed on May 13, 1997.

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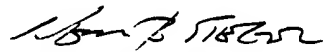
This preliminary amendment effectuates the same changes to the specification as were made in paper No. 5 filed on March 13, 1997. Original claims 1-4 remain in this case. Additionally, the Applicant has added claims 5-12 which set forth various combinations of the subject matter originally disclosed. New independent claims 5 and 9 follow from claim 1, with claim 5 adding a requirement that the surrounding layer (that layer surrounding the inner sphere) have a hardness of at least 45° based on Shore D. Claim 5 then is a combination of original claim 1 and a portion of original claim 4. Claim 5 also sets forth the core diameter which is found in claim 4.

New independent claim 9 follows from claim 1 and adds a requirement that the inner sphere has a lower hardness than that of the surrounding layer. Support for that limitation is found on page 7 of the specification at lines 14-19.

An examination on the merits of these claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, he is requested to contact the undersigned attorney of record at the local exchange listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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